

End-of-Year Message



Dear Families,

It is so exciting to look back to the beginning of the year and see how much children have grown in their understanding of mathematics! The *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum we used this year is based on the idea that we encounter and use mathematics in our everyday lives.

So, over the summer be on the lookout for chances to “talk and think” math with your child in the context of their everyday experiences. This list of Summer Math Ideas may help you to incorporate mathematics into your summer activities in fun and interesting ways. You may want to post the list on your refrigerator for handy reference.

Have a wonderful, math-filled summer!



Summer Math Ideas

- ▷ Continue to use the Home Links and *Mathematics at Home* books as resources for ideas to “do math” together.
- ▷ Play card or board games, including *Everyday Mathematics* games sent home during the year.
- ▷ Choose some math-related books when you go to the library.
- ▷ Keep track of your activities on the calendar. Count how many more days there are until a family vacation or special event.
- ▷ Measure and record how tall your child is at the beginning of the summer, then again at the end of summer. Compare the measures to see how much he or she has grown.

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- ▷ Visit a local zoo or farm and observe and describe the many different kinds and sizes of animals, as well as the patterns of animal markings.
 - ▷ Go berry picking and count and compare numbers of berries. Weigh the berries and compare the weights of different containers.
 - ▷ Cook together. Cooking involves reading numbers, counting, measuring ingredients, measuring time, and sequencing.
 - ▷ Prepare a picnic with various geometric shapes (sandwiches in triangular, rectangular, and square shapes, cylindrical cans, cubes of cheese, and so on).
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- ▷ Set up an obstacle course at the park or in your yard. Go *around* bushes, *under* lawn chairs, *over* the toy blocks, and so on. Draw a map of the course.
 - ▷ Read and follow the maps you find at the zoo, museum, or shopping mall.
 - ▷ Have your child help you look up, copy, and dial phone numbers when arranging play dates or planning an outing.
 - ▷ Allow your child to pay and receive change at the store.
 - ▷ Look for numbers all around—on the mailbox, telephone, book pages, houses, restaurants, gas pumps, and so on.
 - ▷ Incorporate mathematics on a family trip: How many miles will you travel? How many days will you be gone? How much money do you need for the gas or lodging?
 - ▷ When traveling on a car trip, watch for road signs and help your child tally the shapes seen. You might also look for numbers in order as you read the signs.
 - ▷ Measure objects using non-standard units (feet, hands, blocks, pencils), then compare the findings. Children might also enjoy using rulers and measuring tapes.
 - ▷ Look for geometric shapes around the house, at the grocery store, at the park, in the mall, or anywhere you go! Notice both 2- and 3-dimensional shapes.
 - ▷ Write numbers in the sandbox, dirt, play dough, or on the sidewalk with chalk. Use play dough to create 3-dimensional numbers!
 - ▷ Use a thermometer or other source to find the temperature on different days.
 - ▷ Create and solve number stories with family members.